

GENERAL INFORMATION

Licenses, Tags and Permits

How to buy: IDFG licenses, permits, and tags can be purchased at IDFG offices and license vendors throughout the state. However, there are several items that can be purchased only at IDFG offices: Commercial licenses, duplicate tags, documents that require proof of disability, lifetime licenses, and bear baiting permits.

Children must be at least 12 years of age to purchase a hunting license valid for big game EXCEPT an 11-year-old may purchase a hunting license to apply for a controlled hunt permit provided the license is not used to hunt until the person reaches 12 years of age. All new hunters must have passed a hunter education course prior to purchasing a license if born after Jan 1, 1975.

A youth small game license is available for hunters aged 10 and 11, but it is not valid for big game.

Resident Lifetime License Certificates:

Regardless of your age, the purchase of a lifetime license could be the best investment you ever make. Lifetime combination hunting and fishing licenses authorize all privileges associated with a corresponding annual license.

These licenses are valid for the lifetime of the license holder and are available to all residents of the state of Idaho.

They can only be purchased at IDFG headquarters and regional offices.

Applicant Age	Combination	Hunting	Fishing
0 through 1 year	\$ 726.50	\$ 251.50	\$ 551.50
2 through 50 years	\$ 1,016.50	\$ 351.50	\$ 771.50
51 and Older	\$ 581.50	\$ 201.50	\$ 441.50

Nonresidents: If you hunt with an outfitter in Idaho, the outfitter should purchase your tags through the "outfitter set-aside" pool of tags. No outfitter should suggest that you purchase your own tags from the general nonresident pool of tags.

Sale dates: Licenses and tags go on sale Dec 1 of each year, but resident tags are not available until after the deer, elk, and antelope controlled hunt drawings are held. All licenses are valid only for the calendar year for which they are issued.

How to purchase by credit card: Licenses and tags may be purchased with a credit card by calling 1-800-554-8685, 1-800-824-3729, or on the Fish and Game website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>. A service fee is added for this transaction. Residents must have an Idaho driver's license or Idaho identification card to verify residency. When purchasing licenses by telephone, the buyer, on request, will be assigned a validation number which may be used in lieu of the actual license for 14 days from the date of issue. When this number is used in lieu of the actual

license, the person must carry their driver's license or identification card with them. A validation number may not be used in lieu of a tag. Purchasers must wait until tags or permits arrive.

Any license, tag, or permit that is defaced, altered, or tampered with shall be invalid from the date and time of issue. It shall be a violation to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced, tampered with, or altered.

Refund Policy: No refunds will be made on resident licenses, tags, or permits. Nonresidents: in the event of illness or injury which disables a nonresident licensee for the **entire** applicable hunting season; military deployment due to armed conflict; or death of the license holder or his or her parent, spouse or child; the hunting license and tags may be refunded less issuance fees and a \$50 processing fee. Tags and license must be returned with proof (death certificate, obituary, written justification by a licensed medical doctor, or copy of military orders). Hunting license fees will not be refunded after the license is used to apply for a controlled hunt or purchase a turkey, mountain lion, or bear tag. The request must be postmarked by Dec 31 of the year in which the license was valid, except for "event of death" refund, which must be submitted within one year of the death.

A controlled hunt permit and tag may be made available in the same hunt for purchase by an immediate family member of a person who died prior to using his/her permit, and whose family had the fees refunded. Contact Fish and Game Licenses at (208) 334-3717.

If a refund is requested for any other reason, only the fees (not the license fee) may be refunded at the following sliding scale rate:

Postmarked: Before Apr 1, 75% refund.

Postmarked: Apr 1 through Jun 30, 50% refund.

Postmarked: Jul 1 through Aug 31, 25% refund.

Postmarked: Sep 1 through Dec 31, No refund.

Exchange of deer or elk tags: Hunters may exchange elk tags for use in another zone at any IDFG office. Likewise, deer hunters may exchange a general deer tag for a Clearwater deer tag at any IDFG office. A fee of \$3.50 will be charged. **Only one exchange is allowed.** The exchange must be completed before the first opening date for which you are eligible to hunt with the tag you are exchanging. For any area with a quota on tags, exchanges must be made before the quota for that tag type has been sold.

Nonresident defined: You are considered a nonresident if you:

- Have a driver's license in another state
- Register to vote in another state
- File income taxes in another state
- File a homeowner's exemption in another state.

The exception is **ACTIVE DUTY** military personnel, their spouses, and children under 18 living in their house that

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have been stationed in Idaho for at least 30 days.

Ownership of real property or payment of property taxes in Idaho does not establish residence.

Nonresident tag quotas: There is a quota on the sale of nonresident deer and elk tags. Quotas may be exceeded under the following conditions:

- Persons who have moved into Idaho and are establishing residency who can, by affidavit, show proof of their intent to become bona fide residents, but are not now fully qualified to buy a resident license, may purchase a nonresident deer tag and/or nonresident elk tag through the headquarters or regional offices.

IDFG may, upon receipt of an unused nonresident deer or elk tag and a notarized affidavit stating that the tag buyer has not hunted, issue an additional tag to provide a hunting opportunity within the nonresident hunter quota as follows:

- To another nonresident designated by the buyer.
- If the buyer does not make a choice and has retained an outfitter or guide, the outfitter or guide may make the designation.
- If no designation is made by the above, IDFG may sell the replacement tag on a first-come, first-served basis. The designated buyer will pay the regular fee for the replacement tag.

Hunter Education Required

All new hunters must have passed an approved hunter education course prior to purchasing a license if they were born on or after January 1, 1975. Regular hunter education and bowhunter education are both taught by volunteer instructors who, like other hunters, want to be afield early in the hunting season. People who want to be afield early in the hunting season should contact the regional Fish and Game office (see page two) early in the year, or check the department website at fishandgame.idaho.gov/education/hunter_ed/ for class schedules and registration information. Independent and online courses may be available for some students

Hunter education

To purchase a hunting license, all hunters must show proof that they have completed a hunter education course if they were born after Jan 1, 1975, unless they previously have held a hunting license from another state.

Idaho's hunter education classes require a minimum of 12 hours of classroom instruction, plus a written exam, range shooting, and field exercise. The curriculum includes training in firearms safety, outdoor ethics, survival, wildlife management, etc., to start new hunters off on the right foot. In general, students get into a class during the winter in order to complete a course in time to apply for big game controlled hunts in Apr and May.

Bowhunter education

To purchase an archery permit, all bowhunters must show proof they have completed an approved bowhunter-education course in Idaho or show evidence of being previously licensed for an archery-only hunt in Idaho or

another state, or complete an affidavit to that effect.

Idaho's bowhunter education classes are designed for a minimum of eight hours of instruction, with an average class taking about 12 hours. Classes take one to two weeks. Subjects include bowhunting, hunting ethics, shot selection and placement, safety, and understanding your individual limitations and abilities.

Bag and Possession Limits: In any calendar year a person may harvest big game animals of a species equal in number to the valid tags held for that species. If a person is selected for a depredation hunt prior to a controlled hunt season in which they hold a tag for the same unit(s), he or she must include any animal harvested under the limit and tagging rules of the controlled hunt permit. No person may take more than one animal per year during a controlled hunt season by using both a controlled hunt permit and a depredation permit.

Closed Seasons: There is NO OPEN SEASON for caribou, bison (buffalo), grizzly bear, lynx, or wolf. With the exception of bison, these are threatened or endangered species and are protected by both state and federal laws. Please report any suspected sightings of gray wolves or lynx to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Boise at (208) 378-5243 or the nearest Idaho Fish & Game office.

Furbearers: Bobcats, badgers, raccoons, and red foxes are classified as furbearers and may be hunted or trapped only during the furbearer season. No open season exists for lynx. See upland game and trapping rules.

Hunting Hours: Big game animals may be hunted ONLY from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Possession and Sale of Wildlife Parts:

Antlers and horns of deer, elk, moose, pronghorn antelope, and mountain goats; elk teeth, parts of black bears, mountain lions, and animals that have been lawfully taken or have died of natural causes, may be recovered, possessed, purchased, bartered, or sold if accompanied by a statement showing that the animals were lawfully taken.

Antlers of deer, elk, and moose that have been naturally shed in Idaho may be recovered, possessed, purchased, or sold year-round.

Horns from bighorn sheep that have died of natural causes may be recovered and possessed, but may not be sold, bartered, or purchased, and may not be transferred to another person without a permit issued by IDFG. All bighorn sheep horns must be presented within 30 days of recovery to an IDFG regional office for marking by placement of a permanent metal pin.

A written statement showing the taker's name, address, license and tag numbers, date and location of kill, signed by the taker, must be provided to the buyer of any black bear or mountain lion head, hide, or parts. A copy of the sales statement must be forwarded by the buyer to IDFG within 10 days after such sale.

Predatory and Unprotected Wildlife: Coyotes, skunks, weasels, and jackrabbits are classified by Idaho law as predatory and unprotected wildlife. They may be taken in any amount year-round and at any time by holders of the

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appropriate valid Idaho hunting, trapping, or combination hunting and fishing licenses, provided such taking is not in violation of state, county, or city laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations.

Protected Nongame: Protected nongame species of wildlife include bison (buffalo), red (pine) squirrels, wolverines, chipmunks, golden-mantled, Northern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*), Southern Idaho ground squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus endemicus*), Merriam's ground squirrel, Piute ground squirrel, Wyoming ground squirrel, pikas, kit foxes, migratory song birds, and northern flying squirrels. All hawks, owls, eagles, and vultures are protected.

Areas closed to big game hunting

- All state parks, EXCEPT Farragut State Park and Farragut Wildlife Management Area which has a Nov 1-Dec 1 deer archery season, and Billingsley Creek at Malad Gorge State Park, Castle Rock State Park and state land within the City of Rocks National Reserve are open to all hunting.
- Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve was recently enlarged and includes portions of Units 49, 50 and 52A. All of the lands added to the Monument and Preserve remain open to hunting, while lands within the former National Monument remain closed to hunting. For additional information contact (208) 527-3257.
- Nez Perce National Historical Park in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
- Harriman State Park Wildlife Refuge.
- That portion of Ada County within Veterans Memorial Park and the area between State Highway 21, Warm Springs Avenue, and the Boise City limits.
- Yellowstone National Park in Fremont County.
- On any of those portions of state game preserves, state wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries for which hunting closures have been declared by legislative or commission action.
- All or portions of national wildlife refuges, EXCEPT as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.
- All Snake River islands between Glenns Ferry bridge and Sailor Creek bridge in Elmore County.
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County, EXCEPT that portion within an area 50 feet in elevation above the high water level of the Snake River. The upslope area is marked by yellow fiberglass markers, and hunting is permitted downslope to the river.
- Mountain lions may not be hunted or pursued within one-half mile of any active IDFG big game feeding site.
- Black bears may not be hunted or pursued within 200 yards of the perimeter of any designated dump ground or landfill.

Special hunts and permits

Depredation Hunts: Depredation hunts not listed in this booklet may be established to address specific wildlife depredation problems. See page 77 for more information.

Landowner Appreciation Permits: You may be eligible for a Landowner Appreciation Permit if you own at least 640 acres in one hunt area that provides significant habitat values for deer, elk, or antelope. For further information, see the 2004 Landowner Appreciation Permit rules for deer, elk, and antelope or contact any department office.

Eligible landowners need to register their land and eligible applicants prior to applying for Landowner Appreciation Permits. Land registration is done at Regional offices. Landowners only need to register their land and eligible applicants once. Applications will be accepted on or after June 15 of each year. Applications received by July 15 will be randomly drawn. Any permits left after the drawing will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Nonresident Reduced Bear and Mountain Lion

Tags: In the Lolo, Selway, or Middle Fork Zone units (Units 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, and 27), and in that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River, nonresidents may use Reduced Bear or Reduced Mountain Lion tags, available at the discounted price of \$31.50. Reduced Bear and Reduced Mountain Lion tags are valid ONLY in these units. To hunt bears and lions in any other unit, hunters must purchase a regular bear or lion tag at the regular price. Hunters who have already purchased a bear or lion tag at the regular price will not get a refund to purchase a reduced tag.

Second Bear and Lion Tags: Hunters may take a second black bear or mountain lion in the following units: 10, 12, 16A, 17, 19, 20, 20A, 26, 27, and that portion of Unit 16 north of the Selway River (see pages 55-61). Second bear and lion tags are valid ONLY in these units. Second bear and mountain lion tags will be sold at the same price as Reduced Bear and Lion tags.

Landowner Permission Hunts: Landowner permission hunts have been established by commission order to alleviate localized wildlife problems. Landowner permission permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis at Nampa, McCall, and headquarters IDFG offices after July 15. Any person applying for a landowner permission hunt must have a permission slip from a landowner who owns more than 159 acres in the hunt area. The permission slip must have the landowner's name, address, and signature. See controlled hunts on page 43.

Your social security number is safe

The 1998 Idaho Legislature passed the requirement that all applicants for licenses issued by the state, including hunting or fishing licenses, tags, and permits, must give their social security number in order for a license or permit to be issued. **The Idaho Privacy Law protects your social security number. Your social security number is considered confidential, will not be printed on your license and WILL NOT be given to any private person or organization.**

PROPER TAGGING AND TRANSPORTATION OF ANIMALS AND MEAT

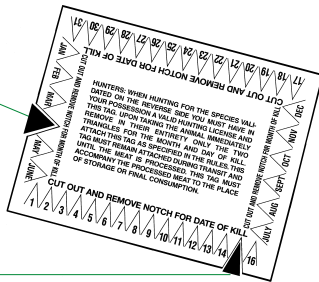
PROPER TAGGING, TRANSPORTATION, SHIPPING OF ANIMALS AND MEAT

Immediately after any deer, elk, antelope, black bear, or mountain lion has been killed, all hunters must comply with the following regulations regarding the proper tagging, transportation, and shipment of a carcass:

- The appropriate big game tag must be validated and securely attached to the animal. The validated tag must remain attached to the carcass until the meat is processed and placed in final storage for personal consumption.

How to properly tag an animal:

Hunters must completely remove two notches indicating month and day of kill.



Proper location of tag:

- Deer, elk, antelope, and black bear:** Attach to the largest portion of the carcass. The tag must remain attached during transit to a place of meat-processing and must accompany the processed meat to the place of final storage or final consumption.
- Mountain lion:** Attach to the hide.

Transportation issues:

Any person who transports any wildlife for another hunter or receives any wildlife for cleaning, processing, or storage must be in possession of a written proxy statement signed by the person who killed the animal. Please use the proxy statement provided below.

How to preserve evidence of sex

Evidence of Sex Must Be Naturally Attached on All Harvested Big Game Animals

Deer, elk and antelope: In antlered animals, the evidence of sex requirement is met when the head, horns, or antlers are left naturally attached to the whole carcass or to a front quarter. If the head, horns, or antlers are removed, leave the sex organs attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or consumption. Plus, the horns or antlers must accompany the carcass while in transit. In antlerless animals, if the head is removed, leave the udder or vulva attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or consumption. If it's a male antlerless elk, deer, or antelope, leave the head attached to the carcass or leave the sex organs attached until the carcass reaches the final place of storage or consumption.

In spike elk or brow-tined elk, two-point, three-point, or four-point-only deer seasons, the evidence of sex requirement is met when the head with both complete unaltered antlers is left naturally attached to the whole carcass or to a front quarter. If the head or antlers are removed, leave the sex organs attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or consumption. Plus, both complete, unaltered antlers must be naturally attached to each other and must accompany the carcass while in transit.

In antlerless, doe/fawn, or female-only seasons, if the head is removed, leave the udder or vulva attached to the carcass until it reaches the final place of storage or consumption. If it's a male antlerless elk, deer, or antelope, leave the head attached to the carcass or leave the sex organs attached until the carcass reaches the final place of storage or consumption.

For black bears and mountain lions, external evidence of sex must be left naturally attached to the hide until the mandatory check requirement has been satisfied.

In seasons restricted to mule deer only or white-tailed deer only, if the head is removed, the fully-haired tail must be left naturally attached to the carcass.

PROXY STATEMENT (To transport wildlife taken by another person)

BIG GAME: Species

- Please circle species
- Elk
 - Mule Deer
 - Whitetail
 - Other

Sex	Description	Hunt Area Killed	Date

OTHER FISH/GAME:

Species _____	Number _____	Sex _____
Species _____	Number _____	Sex _____
Species _____	Number _____	Sex _____
Hunter/Angler's Name _____	Signature _____	
Address _____	Phone _____	
License No. _____	Tag No. _____	Permit No. _____
Name of person transporting _____	Phone _____	

WEAPON RESTRICTIONS

Rifle and Shotgun

In any hunt, including any-weapon seasons, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With any electronic device attached to, or incorporated on, the firearm or scope.
- With any firearm that, in combination with a scope, sling and/or any attachments, weighs more than 16 pounds.
- With any fully automatic firearm.
- With any shotgun using any shot smaller than #00 buck.
- With any rimfire rifle, rimfire handgun, or muzzle-loading handgun, except mountain lion.

Short Range

In big game seasons restricted to **short-range weapons**, it is unlawful for hunters to use any weapon other than a muzzleloader, archery equipment, crossbow, or a shotgun using slugs or shot of size #00 buck or larger.

Muzzleloader

Muzzleloading Rifle or Musket

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With any muzzleloading rifle or musket that is less than .45 caliber for deer, antelope, or mountain lion; or that is less than .50 caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or black bear.

Muzzleloader-Only Season

Any person hunting in a Muzzleloader-only season, including controlled hunts and traditional hunts, must have in possession their license with muzzleloader permit validation.

During a Muzzleloader-only season, it is illegal to pursue or kill a big game animal with any firearm, muzzleloading pistol, or weapon other than a muzzleloading rifle or musket.

In addition, the muzzleloading rifle or musket must be:

- At least .45 caliber for deer, antelope, or mountain lion and .50 caliber for elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, or black bear.
- Capable of being loaded only from the muzzle.
- Equipped with only open or peep sights.
- Loaded only with black powder, Pyrodex, or synthetic black powder.
- Equipped with a single or double-barrel.
- Loaded with a projectile of at least .428 caliber.
- Equipped only with a flint, percussion cap or musket cap.

Traditional Muzzleloader Season

During a *traditional* muzzleloader only season, in addition to restrictions noted above under Muzzleloader and Muzzleloader-only, it is illegal to pursue or kill a big game animal with any firearm other than a muzzleloading rifle or musket with an exposed hammer that pivots, and:

- Is loaded only with loose black powder or Pyrodex.
- Is loaded only with a patched round ball projectile.

Archery — Archery Equipment

In any hunt, including general any-weapon seasons and short-range hunts, it is unlawful to pursue or kill big game animals:

- With arrows or bolts having broadheads measuring less than 7/8 inch in width and having a primary cutting edge less than 0.015 inch thick.
- With any bow having a peak draw weight of less than 40 pounds up to or at a draw of 28 inches.
- With an arrow wherein the broadhead does not precede shaft and nock.
- With any chemicals or explosives attached to the arrow or bolt.
- With arrows or bolts having expanding broadheads.
- With arrows or bolts having barbed broadheads. A barbed broadhead is a broadhead that has any portion of the broadhead forming an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft or ferrule.
- With any electronic or tritium-powered device attached to an arrow or bow.
- With any bow capable of shooting more than one arrow at a time.
- With any compound bow set at more than 65% let-off.
- With an arrow and broadhead with a combined total weight of less than 400 grains.
- With an arrow less than 12 inches from broadhead to nock inclusive.

Archery-Only Season

Any person hunting in an archery-only season, including controlled hunts, must have in possession their license with archery permit validation. During an archery-only season, it is illegal for hunters to use any firearm, crossbow, or implement other than a longbow, compound bow, or recurve bow, or:

- Use any bow equipped with magnifying sights.
- Use any device that holds a bow at partial or full draw.
- EXCEPT handicapped hunters possessing a permit may use a crossbow. (Applications for the use of crossbows by handicapped archers are available at IDFG offices).

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Dogs

Dogs may be used to take or pursue black bear and mountain lion in some seasons. See the pages for those species. Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species.

Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking, or killing any big game animal EXCEPT black bear and mountain lion may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the director, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

Special Vehicle Restrictions: State and federal agencies and private landowners have established road closures in key big game areas to protect deer and elk populations. Please check with regional IDFG, Forest Service, or Bureau of Land Management offices for information regarding vehicle restrictions on roads, trails, and unroaded areas.

Waste of Game: Hunters are required to remove and care for the edible meat of big game animals, except mountain lion. This includes the meat of the front quarters as far down as the knee, hindquarters as far down as the hock, neck meat, meat along the backbone, and meat covering the ribs. It does not include meat of the head, internal organs, or meat on the bones after close trimming.

Wounding and Retrieving: No person shall wound or kill any big game animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession.

Electronic Calls: No electronic calls may be used to attract big game for the purpose of harvest EXCEPT such calls may be used to attract mountain lions in Big Game Units 12, 41, and 42.

REMINDER: General Wildlife Laws

It is Unlawful

- To hunt on cultivated or posted private lands without permission. See Trespass Law, page 13.
- To hunt or take any wildlife without a valid hunting license on your person.
- To take any game without the proper tag or permit.
- To cause or allow the waste of meat from any game animal, except a mountain lion. See "Waste of Game," page 13.
- To party hunt, or help fill another hunter's tag.
- To shoot from or across the traveled portion, shoulders, or embankments of any road maintained by any government entity.
- To hunt game from or by the use of any motorized vehicle, EXCEPT for holders of a valid handicapped person's Motor Vehicle Hunting Permit.
- To operate any vehicle in an area designated as closed for that specific vehicle type.
- To operate a motor vehicle in violation of area, trail, or road restrictions.
- To use aircraft to locate game and communicate location to persons on the ground, or to use any helicopter to transport hunters, gear, or game except at established landing fields.

- To fail to stop and report at any game check station encountered on your route of travel, even if your hunting activity occurred outside the state of Idaho.
- To fail to produce wildlife in possession for inspection upon request of a conservation officer or other person authorized to enforce IDFG laws.
- To hunt any game species with the aid of artificial light except raccoons. See furbearer rules in Upland Game Seasons brochure.
- To hunt big game with dogs except for black bear and mountain lion. See bear and mountain lion sections for details.
- To transfer any license, tag, or permit or use another's license, tag, or permit.
- To acquire more controlled hunt permits or tags per species than that species' bag limit.
- To destroy or disturb traps, or remove any wildlife from traps belonging to others.
- To enter Idaho with livestock without a health certificate for transport and a brand inspection slip.
- To intentionally interfere with the lawful taking of wildlife or lawful predator control by another.
- To hunt any game animal by means of baiting with grain, salt in any form (liquid or solid), or any other substance (not to include liquid scents) to constitute an attraction or enticement, with the exception of applicable rules for the black bear baiting permit. (See pages 52-53.)

Trespass Law: No person may enter private land to hunt, fish or trap without permission if the land is either cultivated or posted with legible "No Trespassing" or enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Proper posting means either signs, 100 square inches of fluorescent orange paint, or an entire fluorescent orange metal fence post every 660 feet around the property and at reasonable access points. It is unlawful for anyone to post public land that is not held under an exclusive control lease. Conviction of trespass on posted private property carries a mandatory one-year revocation of hunting/fishing/trapping licenses.

Federal law prohibits unauthorized trespass on Indian-owned reservation lands for hunting, fishing, or trapping purposes.